

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear members and friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

Arriving back in Virginia, MN after an amazing and rejuvenating 74 day cruise on Holland America's Volendam to Antarctica and South America, I am reminded that April 2023 gives us an opportunity to celebrate Holy Week beginning on Palm Sunday which is Sunday, April 2. The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important of the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord. John's gospel devotes eight of its twenty one chapters to this week alone! The week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday and ends with the "three days" (also called the Triduum, from sunset on Thursday to sunset on Easter day), the period during which we mark Jesus' trial, death and resurrection. Dr. David Jeremiah, who has been studying the Scriptures for most of his life, shares six facts about God that have convinced him that God is able to communicate, to love and to have a personal relationship with all he has made. Dr. Jeremiah suggests that during this Easter season we can be assured that 1. God exists. 2. Some of God's qualities can be known. 3. God can be known. 4. God climactically reveals himself in Jesus Christ. 5. Knowing Jesus Christ is the key to everlasting life., and 6. You will never regret knowing God. Our job on this earth is to increase the number of people who are willing to make Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior of their lives and offer unconditional love and acceptance to all.

During April of 2023, we are also given a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the HCPC sanctuary's 100th birthday with a special worship service at 10:00 am on April 23, 2023, followed by a catered luncheon and an afternoon organ concert featuring Vicki Gornick and Amy Szumal. It is my privilege, along with others, to be part of HCPC Sanctuary Centennial Committee. Since the founding of First Presbyterian church of Virginia in January of 1923 and the dedication of the beautiful sanctuary on April 23, 1923, God has worked through the church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with one another and the larger community. Through Jesus Christ, God provides us with grace, mercy and unconditional love. We are, in turn, encouraged to offer grace, mercy and unconditional love to one another. A well-known hymn written by Edward Mote in 1864 titled MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS, says, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand." Our celebration is going to be so much fun and so meaningful! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Peace, love, blessings and Happy Easter,

Rev. Wendy

Lectionary Readings for April 2023

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
April 2 Passion/Palm Sunday	<i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Matthew 21: 1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16	Philippians 2: 5-11	Matthew 26: 14-27: 66 or Matthew 27: 11-54

Lectionary Readings for April 2023 (continued)

Date	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
April 2 (continued) Passion/Palm Sunday	<i>Liturgy of the Palms</i> Matthew 21: 1-11 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 <i>Liturgy of the Passion</i> Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 31: 9-16	Philippians 2: 5-11	Matthew 26: 14-27: 66 or Matthew 27: 11-54
April 3 Monday of Holy Week	Isaiah 42: 1-9 Psalm 36: 5-11	Hebrews 9: 11-15	John 12: 1-11
April 4 Tuesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 49: 1-7 Psalm 71: 1-14	1 Corinthians 1: 18-31	John 12: 20-36
April 5 Wednesday of Holy Week	Isaiah 50: 4-9a Psalm 70	Hebrews 12: 1-3	John 13: 21-32
April 6 Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12: 1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11: 23-26	John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
April 7 Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22	Hebrews 10: 16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9	John 18: 1 – 19:42
Saturday, April 8 Easter Vigil <i>A minimum of three Old Testament readings should be chosen. The reading from Exodus 14 should always be used.</i>	Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 Genesis 7: 1-5, 11-18, 8: 6-18, 9: 8-13 Psalms 16,19,42,43,46,98,114,143 Genesis 22: 1-18 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 Proverbs 8:1-8, 19-21,9:4b-6 Isaiah 55: 1-11 Isaiah 12:2-6 Isaiah 61: 1-4, 9-11 Deuteronomy 32: 1-4, 7, 36a,43a Ezekiel 36: 24-28 Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Jonah 1:1- 2:1 Jonah 2:2-3 [4-6], 7-9 Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Romans 6: 3-11	John 20: 1-18
Sunday, April 9 Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Morning	Jeremiah 31: 1-6 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43	John 20: 1-18 or Matthew 28: 1-10
Sunday, April 9 Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Evening	Isaiah 25: 6-9 Psalm 114	1 Corinthians 5: 6b-8	Luke 24: 13-49
Sunday, April 16 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Psalm 16	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 or 1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20: 19-31
Sunday, April 23 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Luke 24: 13-35
Sunday, April 30 4 th Sunday of Easter	Psalm 23	Acts 2: 42-47 or 1 Peter 2: 19-25	John 10: 1-10

Happy April Birthdays

1 – Abigail Keelin	14 – Rebecca Staver
1 – Katie Keelin	17 – Sam DeVries
2 – Sue Stevens	18 – Ariella Reynolds
3 – Dorothy Tyndall	20 – Nancy Judnick
4 – Arin Marks	22 – Alicia Atkins
6 – Andrew Lee	25 – Lauren Day
6 – Joel Moschler	25 – Marko Thompson
7 – Bob Prosen	26 – Kevin Koski
9 – Ben Remington	26 – Kathleen Stanaway
11 – Carol Ewens	30 – Erin Hartline

Session Highlights

- Since the COVID health emergency is set to expire soon, we will resume passing the offering plates on Palm Sunday, April 2.
- We are currently experimenting with ways to offer Communion that will minimize having to walk up and down stairs carrying Communion trays.

Welcome Back, Rev. Wendy!

We are happy that Rev. Wendy has returned from her 74 day cruise to South America and Antarctica! We look forward to hearing about her adventures over the coming months. She has decided that her office hours will now be the same as Dawn's: Tues, Weds, Thurs, noon to 3p.m.

In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to Marsha Longrie and other family members of Greig Bergman, who passed away on March 7. A funeral service was officiated by Rev. Frank Davis on March 15.

One Great Hour of Sharing

We will formally collect the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on Palm Sunday, April 2, but you are still welcome donate over the next few weeks if you would like to do so. This offering is made by Presbyterians around the world to provide relief from natural disasters, hunger, poverty and oppression.

Easter Breakfast

Coffee, juice, and pastries will be available before and after the Easter Sunday service.

Easter Lilies

Lilies for our Easter Sunday service are \$12.00 this year. If you would like to purchase one in honor/memory of someone, please contact the church office.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

The Presbytery of Northern Waters is offering a free Youth Mental Health First Aid course on Wednesday, April 19, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m at the United Presbyterian Church in Superior. If you are interested in attending and/or carpooling, please contact the church office.

Earth Fest

Earth Fest will be Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year it will be all under one roof at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia. In addition to informational and vendor booths, speaker topics include climate change, local food access, getting kids gardening, and the potential of e-waste recycling on the range. Free admission!

April Concerts

Range of Voices – Admission \$5

- Fri, Apr. 14, 7 p.m. Chisholm Baptist Church
- Sun, Apr. 16, 2 p.m. Gethsemane Lutheran

Mesabi Community Band

- Thurs, Apr. 20, 7 p.m. – Eveleth Auditorium

The Journey to Hope

The Sanctuary Centennial Committee would like to single out the great job Sylvia Chad has done by creating “The Journey to Hope (Community Presbyterian)” bulletin blurbs. She took it upon herself to read through all the Session minutes from 1923 to now. She had to decipher people's handwriting and fill in the gaps of what happened as those monthly meetings didn't always tell the whole story. The thread of history is what created the tapestry of our church family we celebrate this year. Thank you, Sylvia, for being our seamstress!

Hope's Sanctuary Centennial Day!

The big day is just around the corner! The Mayor of Virginia has proclaimed that April 23, 2023 to be Hope's Sanctuary Centennial Day in Virginia.

Pastor Wendy, Angie Cantlon and our dedicated choir, along with input from Steph Falkowski, are developing a memorable Worship Service for us at 10:00 a. m. Paj Falkowski has booked the fabulous bagpipers from Duluth to add to the historic significance of the occasion.

If you haven't signed up (and paid) for the noon Centennial Luncheon on Sunday, April 23, you still have time to do so. We need the plate count and your payment of \$15/person by April 14 to give Paul's Market the final number. The menu is champagne chicken, glazed baby carrots, parsley buttered red potatoes, tossed lettuce salad, small meat and cheese tray, dinner rolls and coffee. There will be a delicious, celebration cake for dessert along with traditional shortbread cookies.

We hope you've been taking advantage of reading about our history in the South Room of the sanctuary. Our church was built on love and determination to make our community a safe and joyous place to live. As the 1923 dedication ceremony stated, our red brick building is not only a "conspicuous gathering place," it is also a beautiful building in which we can be justifiably proud!

If you cannot make the worship service or the luncheon but would still like to contribute to the festivities, please feel free to send in a donation of any amount. We'd like to have enough money to purchase some ads for the fabulous organ concert we are going to have at 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. Also, if you would like to bake something for the reception after the concert, please have them at the church any time on Sunday. Just put the bars or cookies in the kitchen.

See you Sunday, April 23!

With every good wish,
The Sanctuary Centennial Committee
Sue Stevens, chair



Sunday School

April 2
PALM SUNDAY
Matthew 21: 1-11
 Jesus enters Jerusalem- as a king but riding on a donkey why?

April 15
GOOD FRIDAY
John 19
 Jesus died for us

April 9
Easter/The Empty Tomb
John 20: 1-18; Matthew 28: 1-10
 Hallelujah! He Is Risen!

April 16
John 20: 19-31
 Jesus wants to make disciples of non-believers, baptize them, and teach them God's ways

April 23
Luke 24: 13-35
 Jesus wants them to know that although things look hopeless and they might have doubts, they have to look no further than Scripture to understand what happened and what will happen.

April 30
John 10: 1-10
 Shepherds will always, no matter what, look after their sheep. so God will always look after us

April 2023

One Great Hour of Sharing

Bring in your fish banks to church on Palm Sunday or drop them off anytime at the CE building

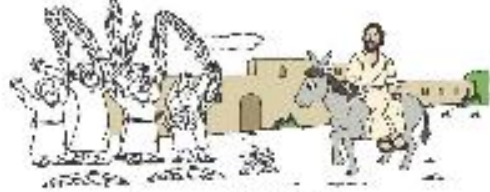
The church office is usually open T, W, TH 12 pm - 3 pm or use the mail slot. Thanks.



When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" How did the crowds answer?

Start with the word provided and follow the directions to find the missing words. Then fill in the blanks below.

- 1) Crowd
 1. Remove "J", and substitute "a" with "e". _____
 2. Substitute "wh" with "th" and add "s" at the end. _____
 3. Remove "t" and add "e" at the end. _____
 4. Drop the first letter and add "j" at the end. _____
 5. Now reverse the order of the letters. _____
- 2) Temple
 1. Reverse the order of the letters. _____
 2. Drop the first letter, and substitute "n" with "t" and "t" with "p". _____
 3. Add "s" at the end. _____
 4. Drop the first letter and add an "n" before the "t". _____
 5. Substitute "e" with "o" and add an "e" before the "t". _____



The crowds answered, "This is (1) _____ the (2) _____ from Nazareth in Galilee."

Birthday Box

Ariella Reynolds April 18
 Lauren Day April 25
 Marko Thompson April 25

Christian Education Calendar

Sunday April 2	Sunday April 7	Sunday April 9	Sunday April 16	Sunday April 23	Sunday April 30
			<i>John 20: 19-31</i>	<i>Luke 24: 13-35</i> CELEBRATE!	<i>John 10: 1-10</i>